

IN THE CLAIMS

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for determining information regarding position and orientation of magnetic (MR) resonance tomographic slice image exposures of a patient, ~~reference to the patient~~, comprising the steps of:

obtaining ~~generating~~ a plurality of initial MR overview exposures of the body of a patient;

electronically individualizing electronic data representing a predetermined, generalized, parameterized anatomical body model that is non-specific for any one patient, using said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures to produce an individualized body model that is individualized for said patient of whom the overview exposures were generated; and

after obtaining said plurality of initial MR overview exposures, obtaining subsequent MR slice image exposures of the patient and, in a computerized processor, automatically electronically determining patient-referenced information indicating a position and orientation of said subsequent MR slice image exposures of the patient, ~~obtained after said initial MR overview images~~, dependent on a relative position of said subsequent MR slice image exposures with respect to the individualized body model.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising producing said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures in ~~a standardized~~ an arrangement according to a predetermined standard.

18.(Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising generating said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures as cross-section exposures of the patient.

19.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18 comprising generating said cross-section exposures, comprising said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures, as a plurality of cross-section exposures with respective intervals therebetween of no greater than ~~approximately~~ 50 cm.

20.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18 comprising generating said cross-section exposures, comprising said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures, as a plurality of cross-section exposures with respective intervals therebetween of no greater than ~~approximately~~ 15 cm.

21.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising, in said processor, automatically electronically determining a quality of individualization of said individualized body model by individualizing said anatomical body model in successive iterations and, after each iteration, comparing the individualized body model to a structure therein that is also detectable in said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures.

22.(Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising individualizing said body model by adjusting model parameters comprising at least one translation parameter, at least one rotation parameter and at least one scaling parameter of an entirety of the body model, in addition to parameters describing a spatial position and shape of predetermined body parts of said body model.

23.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising ~~determining~~ in said processor, generating a linguistic ~~destination~~ description of the position of the patient using parameter values of said individualized body model.

24.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising automatically positioning said patient dependent on a patient description entered by an operator~~[[,]]~~ into said processor and, in said processor, automatically electronically monitoring ~~[[a]]~~ said patient description ~~of said patient position~~ using parameter values of said individualized body model.

25.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising, from said processor, providing a visualizeable output of said position and orientation of said subsequent MR slice image exposures ~~dependent on~~ with respect to said individualized body model at a display in communication with said processor.

26.(Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 25 comprising providing said visualized output in a form selected from the group consisting of a linguistic form and a graphical form.

27.(Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising using said individualized body model to automatically electronically calculate a body weight of the patient.

28.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising automatically electronically positioning using said individualized body model to position the patient relative to a magnetic resonance scanner, for obtaining said subsequent MR magnetic resonance exposures, ~~using~~ with respect to said individualized body model.

29.(Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16 comprising electronically storing said individualized body model, and generating said subsequent MR magnetic resonance images of the patient at a time substantially separated from a time at which said initial ~~magnetic resonance images~~ MR overview exposures of the patient were ~~generated~~ obtained, ~~with electronic access to by electronically accessing~~ the stored individualized body model.

30.(Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with ~~information~~ programming instructions in computer readable form that ~~programs~~ cause a computer to operate a magnetic resonance MR imaging apparatus to:

generating obtain a plurality of initial MR overview exposures of the body of a patient;

after obtaining said plurality of initial MR overview exposures, electronically individualizing individualize electronic data representing a predetermined, generalized, parameterized anatomical body model that is non-specific for any one patient, using said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures to produce an individualized body model that is individualized for said patient of whom the overview exposures were generated; and

after obtaining said plurality of initial MR overview exposures, automatically electronically ~~determining~~ determine patient-referenced information indicating a position and orientation of said subsequent MR slice image exposures of the patient, ~~obtained after said initial MR overview~~

~~images,~~ dependent on a relative position of said subsequent MR slice image exposures with respect to the individualized body model.

31. (Currently Amended) A control device for operating a magnetic resonance MR tomography apparatus having a scanner adapted to receive a patient therein, said control device being programmed to:

~~generating~~ obtain a plurality of initial MR overview exposures of the body of a patient;

after obtaining said plurality of initial MR overview exposures, electronically ~~individualizing~~ individualize electronic data representing a predetermined, generalized, parameterized anatomical body model that is non-specific for any one patient, using said initial magnetic resonance overview exposures to produce an individualized body model that is individualized for said patient of whom the overview exposures were generated; and

after obtaining said plurality of initial MR overview exposures, automatically electronically ~~determining~~ determine patient-referenced information indicating a position and orientation of said subsequent MR slice image exposures of the patient, ~~obtained after said initial MR overview images,~~ dependent on a relative position of said subsequent MR slice image exposures with respect to the individualized body model.

32. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance (MR) apparatus comprising:
an MR data acquisition unit;

generating a control unit configured to operate said MR data acquisition unit
to obtain a plurality of initial MR overview exposures of the body of a
patient;

said control unit being configured to individualize electronically ~~individualizing~~
individualize electronic data representing a predetermined,
generalized, parameterized anatomical body model that is non-specific
for any one patient, using said initial magnetic resonance overview
exposures to produce an individualized body model that is
individualized for said patient of whom the overview exposures were
generated; and

said control unit being configured, after obtaining said plurality of initial MR
overview exposures, to operate said MR data acquisition unit to obtain
subsequent MR slice image exposures of the patient, and to
automatically ~~electronically determining~~ determine patient-referenced
information indicating a position and orientation of said subsequent MR
slice image exposures ~~of the patient, obtained after said initial MR~~
~~overview images~~, dependent on a relative position of said subsequent
MR slice image exposures with respect to the individualized body
model.